

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02993 290727Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 290549Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1047

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY

S E C R E T JIDDA 2993

STADIS////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: YAR ARMS MISSION TO RIYADH

REF: A. STATE 80534 B. STATE 95502 C. STATE 76242

D. STATE 78961 E. SANAA 809 F. SANAA 810 G. JIDDA 2837

H. JIDDA 2045

SUMMARY: ARMY'S FOR YEMEN WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE CLEMENTS VISIT ONLY BRIEFLY AND IN GENERAL TERMS. WE ARE EXTRACTING FROM THE FIFER REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE PROPOSE TO INCLUDE IN A LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO SULTAN WHICH WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN SUBSTANCE. WE WILL SHORTLY SEND THE DRAFT TO THE DEPT. FOR APPROVAL. UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO TALK SPECIFICS, WE WON'T MOVE THE SAG. OUR GENERAL ADVICE TO YAR ARMS MISSION IS TO KEEP INITIAL PROPOSALS MODEST AND REALISTIC AND TO TELL THE SAG THAT THE USG HAS INFORMED THE YARG THAT IT IS WAITING FOR THE SAG TO TAKE THE LEAD IN A PROGRAM OF ARMS ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN. END SUMMARY.

1. SUBJECT OF ARMS ASSISTANCE TO THE YEMEN WAS RAISED DURING THE CLEMENTS VISIT BUT WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN ANY DETAIL. (PERTINENT PORTIONS REF G PASSED SANAA SEPTTEL) CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS (REFS C AND D)

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CLEMENTS DID NOT MENTION THE FIFER REPORT OR THE

"IMPACT PACKAGE" OF ARMS ASSISTANCE IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS. CONCERNING THE FIFER REPORT, CLEMENTS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT IT HAD NOT YET BEEN CLEARED BY STATE. THIS APPEARS TO CONFLICT WITH PARA 2 REF C. WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF THE REPORT'S PRESENT STATUS.

2. CONCERNING THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED OFFICE OF YEMEN AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (PARA 3.C. REF G) EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER WAS INFORMED BY DOL. CHAHIRY WHO CONDUCTED SAG SURVEY OF YAR ARMED FORCES THAT THE OFFICE CONSISTS OF ONE COL. DHAHIRY, WHO ALSO CONTINUES IN HIS REGULAR FULL-TIME JOB AS TRAINING OFFICER FOR THE SAA. DHAHIRY ALSO INFORMED US THAT HIS SURVEY REPORT IS COMPLETED THOUGH SULTAN SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE COULD NOT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT BEFORE SOMETIME IN MAY.

3. WE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO GET SOME MOVEMENT OF THIS PROGRAM FOR THE REASONS WELL ELUCIDATED BY EMBASSY SANAA (SANAA 662 AND PREVIOUS) AND ESPECIALLY AS A GESTURE OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT HAMDI. WE THEREFORE FIND OURSELVES PARTICULARLY FRUSTRATED BY THE CONTINUING ALPHONSE-GASTON ACT OVER THE FIFER AND DHAHIRY REPORTS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SAG WILL IN TIME COME UP WITH A CONCRETE PLAN OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE YAR ARMED FORCES. WE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROUD THEM IN THIS REGARD. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, HOWEVER, THAT UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS--IF NOT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFER REPORT THEN SOMETHING LIKE IT--WE DON'T STAND MUCH CHANCE OF GETTING THE SAG TO ACCELERATE ITS GLACIAL DELIBERATIVE PROCESS.

4. WE ARE NOW EXTRACTING FROM THE FIFER REPORT (WHICH WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED) A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WE PROPOSE TO PUT IN A LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR TO PRINCE SULTAN ALONG WITH THE REQUEST FOR AN EARLY MEETING TO DISCUSS WAYS OF GETTING THE AID PROGRAM TO YEMEN MOVING. WE WILL SEND THIS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL SHORTLY AND WILL HOPE

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FOR AN EARLY RESPONSE. WITH THIS AS A LEVER WE THINK WE STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING THE SAUDIS MOVING.

5. UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO GET DOWN TO NUTS AND BOLTS WITH THE SAUDIS WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A DETAILED RECOMMENDATION AS TO THE BEST APPROACH FOR THE YAR MISSION TO FOLLOW. OUR INITIAL INCLINATION WAS TO RECOMMEND FURTHER DELAY OF THE YAR MISSION UNTIL

AFTER WE HAD TALKED WITH THE SAUDIS BUT GIVEN THE RECORD TO DATE WE CANNOT WITH ANY CONFIDENCE PREDICT MORE SUCCESS LATER. OUR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE A) THAT THE YAR MISSION KEEP ITS PROPOSALS REALISTIC AND MODERATE. THE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE PRESENTED AS THE INITIAL STEP IN THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND SHOULD ADDRESS AREAS WHERE THE NEED IS PATENT AND QUICK RESPONSE BY THE SAUDIS (AND THE U.S.) POSSIBLE. B) THAT THE YAR MISSION TELL THE SAUDIS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE USG THAT IT SUPPORTS A PROGRAM OF MODERNIZATION OF THE YAR ARMED FORCES BUT THAT THE USG IS WAITING FOR THE SAG TO TAKE THE LEAD AS WELL AS TO FINANCE THE PROGRAM. AKINS

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